



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY NEWSLETTER

October 2023

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## Building Community Resilience in the Brentwood, North Brentwood, and Tantallon Communities



Low Impact  
Development  
Center



To support the Prince George's County Climate Action Plan and bolster climate resiliency in local communities, the Fiscal Year 2023 Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program had a call for community-based organizations to conduct "blitz" pilot projects that would support this effort.

The goal of the pilot projects is to build community-wide climate resilience to nuisance flooding and other climate change vulnerabilities using a targeted "blitz" approach. This approach involves focused outreach, community engagement, and installation of small to medium scale practices in identified equity areas and climate vulnerable communities. "Equity areas" are described in the Prince George's County Climate Action Plan where the "County has an opportunity to exemplify equity in action by anticipating, assessing, and preventing potential adverse consequences of proposed actions." The small to medium scale practices that will be installed include those supported by the County's Rain Check Rebate Program such as cisterns, rain gardens, conservation landscaping, and pavement removal, as well as other innovative practices.

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Alliance) and the Low Impact Development Center (LID Center) were awarded grants to conduct the pilot projects. The Alliance will focus on the Tantallon community and the LID Center will focus on the North Brentwood and Brentwood

communities. Both pilot projects are underway as the Alliance and the LID Center begin their outreach efforts to engage with the communities and identify community members who are interested in participating in these pilot projects.

For the Tantallon community: The Alliance will be holding an information session on November 15th at 7pm. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrce-gpzIpH9wDnUAyySeCjLxRLa4EU7hL>. For more information, contact [tantallon@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:tantallon@allianceforthebay.org).

Stay tuned for more details about these projects and how to get involved!

## Reminder: Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program is Open for Applications



The Prince George's County Department of the Environment and the Chesapeake Bay Trust are proud to announce the tenth year of partnership for the [Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program](#) – with many exciting and new additions this year!

What this funds: On-the-ground restoration activities that improve communities, improve water quality, support the County's Climate Action Plan, and engage County residents in the restoration and protection of the local rivers and streams. Example projects include rain gardens, stormwater management practices, butterfly gardens, tree canopy education, specimen tree preservation, environmental workshops/events, and more!

Applicants can request funds from the following project tracks:

- Track 1: Water Quality Implementation (\$50,000 to \$150,000)

- Track 2: Tree Canopy: Outreach, Education, Maintenance, and Preservation (\$50,000 to \$300,000)
- Track 3: Community Awareness and Engagement (\$10,000 to \$60,000)
- Track 4: Illegal Dumping Data Analysis and Forensics (\$10,000 to \$50,000)
- Track 5: Piloting a Co-Payment System for Stormwater Management and Residential Resilience Retrofit Program Projects in the Henson Creek Watershed (up to \$1 million)

Who can apply: Non-profit organizations, municipalities, watershed organizations, education institutions, community associations, faith-based organizations, civic groups, and more.

Application deadline: November 30, 2023

An information session was held on Tuesday September 26th. During the information session, we provided a summary of the grant program, the project tracks, the application process, and answered questions.

[Watch the Recording of the Information Session](#)

## **NEW: Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program is Now Open!**



The Prince George's County Department of the Environment and the Chesapeake Bay Trust are excited to announce a new mini grant program: [The Prince George's County Community Gardens Mini Grant Program!](#)

This mini grant program supports the creation and need for community gardens that provide resources to the Prince George's County community while supporting the Prince George's County Climate Action Plan. The primary goal of this mini grant is to fund community garden projects that help address food security and support neighborhood scale implementation of regenerative agriculture and other sustainable gardening practices. This program supports both the development of new community gardens as well as the growth of existing community gardens that plan to expand regenerative practices.

Requests are accepted on an on-going basis until funds for this fiscal year (FY24) are exhausted.

*Photo: Laurel City Community Garden: Courtesy of City of Laurel*

[\*\*Learn More About this New Mini Grant Program\*\*](#)

## **Brandywine Resident Receives \$1,500 Rebate for Planting Ten Native Trees**



Now that it is October, it is tree planting season!

Planting trees increases the urban tree canopy, which is the area of leaves and branches that provide shade under the trees. By reducing the amount of sunlight reaching buildings, trees can lead to lower air conditioning costs and cooler local temperatures. Trees in urban areas soak up rainfall before it becomes stormwater runoff, which contributes to the pollution of our local waterways. Native trees also support our local wildlife by providing both habitat and food sources.

The picture above shows one of eight native trees planted at a residential property in Brandywine, through the [Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program](#). This resident planted two sweetbay magnolia trees, two serviceberry trees (one seen in the above photo), and six eastern redbuds. The resident received a rebate of \$1,500 (\$150 per tree) for planting the native trees on their property!

[Learn More About Urban Tree Canopy](#)

## Rebates Available for Homeowners, Businesses, and Other Property Owners

### RAIN CHECK REBATE

GET REBATES FOR...

The infographic features a blue header with the text "RAIN CHECK REBATE" in white. Below it is a white section with the text "GET REBATES FOR..." in black. Seven icons are arranged horizontally, each with a corresponding label below it:

- Rain Barrels: An icon of a barrel filled with water.
- Cisterns: An icon of a large cylindrical tank.
- Urban Tree Canopy: An icon of a tree with a canopy of leaves.
- Rain Gardens: An icon of a garden bed filled with colorful flowers.
- Pavement Removal: An icon of a jackhammer.
- Permeable Pavement: An icon of a paved surface made of permeable tiles.
- Green Roofs: An icon of a house with a green roof and leaves.

*...and help keep Prince George's County beautiful and healthy!*

The [Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program](#) offers incentives to homeowners, businesses, and other property owners to install practices that will reduce stormwater runoff, reduce pollution, and improve the health of our local rivers.

The seven stormwater practices eligible for rebates include rain barrels, cisterns, urban tree canopy plantings, rain gardens, pavement removal, permeable pavement installation, and green roofs.

The total maximum rebate amount for the lifetime of a property is \$6,000 for residential properties and \$20,000 for commercial, industrial, and institutional properties. **Please note that the total maximum rebate amount for residential properties has increased from \$4,000 to \$6,000 as of March 2022.** So, if you previously had reached the cap, you may be able to apply for more projects now!

[Learn More & Apply](#)

## Maintenance Support Available for Rain Check Rebate Participants

### MAINTAINING STORMWATER PRACTICES IN THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED

Receive FREE assistance with your stormwater practices!



Have you had a stormwater practice installed through the Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program? Introducing the Maintaining Stormwater Practices in the Anacostia Watershed program! This program is funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to help support residential property owners with maintenance of their Rain Check Rebate projects. This program offers support for Anacostia watershed residents through:

- [Free Inspections](#): A landscape professional will evaluate your stormwater practice and provide a written report of maintenance recommendations
- [Discounted Maintenance](#): 50% of the cost, up to \$750, could be covered for the maintenance of your green feature while you learn proper maintenance techniques through hands-on preparation
- [Stormwater Maintenance Resource Center](#): Check out the online maintenance resources for more information about caring for your stormwater practices
- [Green Ambassadors Program \(GAP\)](#): Are you interested in joining a community volunteer maintenance team to maintain neighborhood stormwater practices, including yours?

If you are interested in participating, please review the [Property Owner Guide](#) or visit the [Stormwater Maintenance Resources website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Kristen Parsons**  
202-599-8164  
[kparsons@allianceforthebay.org](mailto:kparsons@allianceforthebay.org)

Thank you for doing your part to improve water quality and promoting a cleaner, healthier Chesapeake Bay!

In partnership,



## Opportunity for Increased Urban Tree Canopy Rebates in Underserved Communities

Additional Resources for Urban Tree Canopy Projects

**New! Increased rebates for tree planting projects in eligible underserved communities**

Additional rebate funding will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

See the Rain Check Rebate program website or contact program staff at [rebate@cbctrust.org](mailto:rebate@cbctrust.org) for more details.



You may be eligible for a \$300 rebate for every 2 to 2 ½ inch caliper or larger native tree installed on your property! The Prince George's County Department of the Environment was awarded funds to supplement existing tree planting programs as part of the Five Million

Maryland Trees for Climate Progress initiative. If your property is located within a designated underserved area, you may be eligible for an increased rebate.

\*Native trees should be planted between the months of October and May to optimize survival and success of the tree. Start planning your fall planting now!

This is a pilot program contingent on funding. Contact [rebate@cbtrust.org](mailto:rebate@cbtrust.org) for more information.

[Learn More about this Program](#)

## Thanks for attending the Prince George's County Green Summit!



Thank you for attending the Prince George's County Department of the Environment 9th annual Green Summit on Saturday October 21, 2023! The Trust enjoyed being an exhibitor at the event and appreciated everyone who stopped at our table. It was a great opportunity to connect with the Prince George's County community and share resources about the Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program and the Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program!

## Bag it Right in Prince George's County



Starting January 1, 2024, Prince George's County is moving to a more sustainable future and leaving plastic bags behind! Get ready to "Bag it Right" for a greener Prince George's County. There are many benefits to using reusable bags including reducing litter and limiting single-use plastic consumption, in turn bettering our communities!

Be Featured in Our Newsletter!

Send us any news, photos, project success stories, and upcoming events to Megan Andreasen at [mandreasen@cbtrust.org](mailto:mandreasen@cbtrust.org) to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.



#### **ABOUT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust shares a bold vision for a restored and protected Chesapeake Bay watershed and other natural resources in our area—from the Coastal Bays to the Chesapeake to the Youghiogheny River. We uniquely empower local community-based groups on the ground with the resources they need to take on a meaningful and measurable role in restoring forests, streams, rivers, bays, wildlife, and more in their own communities.

The Trust empowers these groups by providing grants and technical assistance. Every year, about 400 groups are awarded project money or provided other assistance to accomplish environmental education, community outreach, and local watershed restoration projects. Since 1985, the Trust has awarded \$146 million in grants and engaged hundreds of thousands of resident stewards in projects that have a measurable impact.

The Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for over two decades: on average 90 percent of the Trust's expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.

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